

What is claimed is:

1. A biometric characteristic enabled remote control device comprised of:
an input device that receives an input command from a user;
5 a biometric scanner adapted to obtain a first biometric characteristic of a user
of said device;
a memory storing representations of a biometric characteristic of at least one
individual;
a processor operatively coupled to: said biometric scanner; said memory; and
10 said input device, said processor reading signals from said input device and reading
signals from scanner and comparing biometric characteristics as measured by said
scanner to representations of biometric characteristics stored in memory; and
a transmitter coupled to said processor and which transmits predetermined
15 signals therefrom upon the identification of a scanned biometric characteristic to a
stored representation of a biometric characteristic.
2. The device of claim 1 wherein said biometric scanner is a capacitive
finger print scanner.
- 20 3. The device of claim 1 wherein said biometric scanner is an optical
retina scanner.
4. The device of claim 1 wherein said biometric scanner is a voice print
scanner.
- 25 5. The device of claim 1 wherein said transmitter is a Bluetooth-
compliant transmitter.
6. The device of claim 1 wherein said transmitter is an infrared
30 transmitter.

7. A biometric characteristic enabled slave device comprised of:
an input device that receives an input command from a user;
a biometric scanner adapted to obtain a first biometric characteristic of a user
of said device;

5 a memory storing representations of a biometric characteristic of at least one
individual;

a processor operatively coupled to: said biometric scanner said memory; and
said input device, said processor reading signals from said input device and reading
signals from scanner and comparing biometric characteristics as measured by said
10 scanner to representations of biometric characteristics stored in memory; and

a tuner, operatively coupled to and receiving signals from said processor, said
signals from said processor enabling or inhibiting functionality of said tuner.

8. The device of claim 7 wherein said biometric scanner is a capacitive
15 finger print scanner.

9. The device of claim 7 wherein said biometric scanner is a retina
scanner.

10. The device of claim 7 wherein said biometric scanner is a voice print
20 scanner.

11. The device of claim 7 wherein said transmitter is a Bluetooth-
compliant transmitter.

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12. The device of claim 7 wherein said transmitter is an infrared
transmitter.

13. A method of controlling functionality of a slave appliance from a
30 remote control device comprised of:

obtaining a first biometric characteristic of an individual at said remote control device;

generating a numeric representation of said first biometric characteristic within said remote control device;

5 comparing said first biometric characteristic to the representation of a second biometric characteristic within said remote control device to determine within said remote control device if said first characteristic is substantially the same as said second characteristic; and

10 if said first and second characteristics are substantially the same, transmitting a message to said slave appliance from said remote control device.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein said step of transmitting a message includes the step of transmitting a message using infrared frequency signals.

15 15. The method of claim 13 wherein said step of transmitting a message includes the step of transmitting a message using radio frequency signals.

16. The method of claim 13 wherein said step of obtaining a first biometric characteristic is comprised of the step of optically scanning a finger print.

20 17. The method of claim 13 wherein said step of obtaining a first biometric characteristic is comprised of the step of capacitively scanning a finger print.